

5           1. A method for providing a supply of electrolyte to a molten carbonate fuel cell, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a slurry paste of electrolyte said slurry comprising solid electrolyte particles dispersed in a carrier vehicle; and
- b) spreading said slurry paste into flow channels of the bipolar plates during  
10           assembly so as to completely fill said flow channels; and
- c) drying said slurry paste, and
- d) installing current collector and electrode onto the flow channels of said bipolar plate.

15           2. The method of claim 1 wherein said carrier vehicle is present in the slurry in the amount of about 27%.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said carrier vehicle is water.

4. A molten carbonate fuel cell comprising a cathode and an anode positioned on either side and in contact with an electrolyte matrix, and wherein the anode and cathode are contacting flow fields on the sides of the electrodes opposite the electrolyte matrix; and wherein the flow field of at  
20           least one electrode contains a packed bed of dried electrolyte.

5. The fuel cell of claim 4 wherein the carrier of the dried electrolyte had been water.